## SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

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IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE

**PROCEEDINGS** 

:

RE: JENNIFER C. BECK, LPN

f/k/a JENNIFER C. THOMAS

ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION AND NOTICE OF HEARING

License No. P009933,

Licensee.

WHEREAS, Jennifer C. Beck, f/k/a Jennifer C. Thomas, LPN ("Licensee"), is licensed to practice as a practical nurse in the State of South Dakota and holds license number P009933; and

WHEREAS, on or about September 12, 2014, the South Dakota Board of Nursing ("Board") received a complaint from Licensee's then employer that Licensee tested positive for alcohol while at work; and

WHEREAS, that upon review of the case, the Board took action mandating the Licensee into the Health Professionals Assistance Program ("HPAP"); and

WHEREAS, Licensee was compliant with HPAP until May 25, 2016, when she began to fail to attend individual and group counseling meetings; and

WHEREAS, on June 9, 2016, the Licensee had a positive drug screen. She also failed to return calls to HPAP; and

WHEREAS, the Board was contacted by HPAP regarding Licensee's unsuccessful discharge from the program for noncompliance as of June 28, 2016; and

WHEREAS, that following her unsuccessful discharge, Board staff attempted to contact the Licensee on numerous occasions. The Board staff was not able to make contact with the Licensee nor did Licensee return any calls to Board staff; and

WHEREAS, based upon the above, I conclude that the public health, safety, and welfare imperatively requires emergency action in that Licensee's actions in failing to comply with the HPAP program may endanger the health and safety of persons entrusted to her care and that Licensee's license should be summarily suspended.

WHEREAS, based upon the affidavit of Francie Miller and the above stated conduct, the Board has concluded that Licensee's actions constitute unprofessional conduct and require emergency action, in that Licensee's actions may endanger the health and safety of those who are or will be entrusted to her care in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Board, has a statutory obligation to protect the health, safety and welfare set forth in SDCL §36-9, including the protection of the public from unsafe nursing practices and practitioners.

## NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

- 1. That the Board has jurisdiction of the Licensee and the subject matter of this Order.
- 2. That based on the above, the Board specifically finds that the public health, safety and welfare require emergency action against Licensee's license.
- 3. That based on the above, the Board specifically finds that the actions of the Licensee endanger the public health, safety and welfare, and imperatively require emergency

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Order for Summary Suspension and Notice of Hearing Licensee: Jennifer C. Beck f/k/a Jennifer C. Thomas

action in that Licensee may endanger the health and safety of those persons who are or will be entrusted to her care in the future and that these are matters of a nature that would constitute further grounds for discipline of her license to practice nursing under SDCL § 36-9-49 (7) and

(10).

4. Based upon these findings, Licensee's license to practice nursing in South Dakota

is hereby summarily suspended. Licensee may petition according to SDCL § 36-9-57 for

reinstatement of her license at any time for "good cause."

Licensee is hereby notified that any practice of or holding herself out as a 5.

practical nurse during the terms of this Order of Summary Suspension is a violation of SDCL §

36-9-68.

This action is reportable discipline and will be published in the Board's newsletter 6.

and posted on its website and reported into the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) as

required by law.

The South Board of Nursing met on the 8th day of September, 2016, and approved this

Order of Summary Suspension by a vote of <u>\gamma-\oldot</u>, and issues its Order for Summary Suspension

consistent herein as follows:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above is adopted as an Order of the South Dakota

Board of Nursing this 21 day of <u>September</u>, 2016.

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

Gloria Damgaard, RN, MS
Executive Di

**Executive Director** 

## **NOTICE OF HEARING**

The South Dakota Board of Nursing ("Board") pursuant to SDCL §§ 1-26-16, 1-26-27, and 1-26-29, hereby provides this Notice of Hearing to Jennifer C. Beck, f/k/a Jennifer C. Thomas, License No. P008923 ("Licensee") as follows:

- 1. Hearing on the Order of Summary Suspension will take place before the Board on November 17<sup>9</sup>, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. at the office of the South Dakota Board of Nursing, 4305 S. Louise Avenue, Suite 201, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.
- 2. This matter is an adversarial proceeding and Licensee has the right to be present at the hearing and to be represented by an attorney. These due process rights will be forfeited if they are not exercised at the hearing.
- 3. The hearing will address the Board's assertion, as set forth in its Summary Suspension, that the Licensee, by her conduct, violated SDCL §§ 36-9-49 (7) and (10).
- 4. At the hearing, the Board will determine whether the Licensee's license shall be suspended, revoked or subject to other disciplinary action as determined by the evidence presented.
- 5. Licensee has a right to request that the agency use the Office of Hearing
  Examiners for this proceeding by giving notice of the request to the Board no later than ten (10)
  days after the service of this Notice of Hearing on Order of Summary Suspension.
- 6. A decision issued by the Board after the hearing may be appealed to the circuit court and to the state Supreme Court as provided by law.

Order for Summary Suspension and Notice of Hearing Licensee: Jennifer C. Beck f/k/a Jennifer C. Thomas

Dated this 2 day of September, 2016.

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

Gloria Damgaard, RN, MS

**Executive Director**